proposals of Karnataka. As per the Swajaldhara Guidelines excluding community contribution of 10% or 5% as the case may be, the Government of India would fund the balance cost of the water supply scheme.

Fluoride affected villages in Karnataka

2299. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high fluoride content drinking water has disabled villagers in many parts of the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of persons affected due to consumption of high fluoride content water, district-wise in the State for the past three years;

(c) whether Government propose to make alternative supply of drinking water for the villages affected by fluoride contained water; and

(d) If so, the details of the proposals and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, 5838 habitations in 27 districts of Karnataka have fluoride contamination in drinking water affecting the inhabitants. The survey conducted in July 2000 in Nidasoshi village and another survey conducted in Keerunayaka Thanda village of Gulbarga district in 2002 have shown 7 and 18 persons affected by skeletal fluorosis respectively. This disability cannot be solely attributed to fluoride content in drinking water alone.

(c) and (d) Rural drinking water is a State subject. State Governments take up schemes/projects for providing drinking water in rural areas from their own resources. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments and provides financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under ARWSP, upto 15% of the allotted funds can be utilised to tackle water quality problem which *inter-alia* includes providing safe drinking water free from fluoride contamination.

Government of India had been sanctioning projects under Sub Mission Programme for providing safe drinking water free from brackishness,

fluorides, excess iron etc. till April, 1998. Since then, powers to approve and implement Sub Mission projects have been delegated to the State Governments. State Governments have repeatedly been requested to sanction more and more such projects to provide safe drinking water to rural habitations.

Industries in rural areas

†2300. SHRILAJPATRAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from the'Agriculture sector, the Government have also explored the possibilities of the extension of industries in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, names of the industries along with names of the rural areas in the country where these industries can be set up; and

(c) their estimated contribution in the GDP of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is not implementing any Scheme specifically for financing industries in rural areas. However, the Ministry is implementing Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for Self Employment of the families living below the poverty line in rural areas of the Country except Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.

Under the Scheme, each block may identify about 10 Key activities based on the local resources, aptitude as well as skill of the people and the market potential. The Key activities are selected in consultation with the Banks and Line Departments which could also include Village and Cottage industries. Activities identified as Key activity are financed with Subsidy and Bank credit under the SGSY.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.